

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the office action dated September 17, 2004. In addition a Request for Continued Examination, and a petition for a one of extension of time is attached. In the office action, claims 1-9 were rejected. Claims 10-15 are canceled. Therefore, the rejection of claims 10-15 is moot. Claims 1-9 are amended. In addition, claim 16-26 have been added. The Request for Continued Examination is being made because Applicant's Attorney believes that elements in the original specification have been added to the claims which were not in the original claims, and were therefore not searched. The new claim elements have been added to more clearly distinguish Applicant's invention over the cited art. A detailed discussion of each item in the office action follows.

THE 102(b) REJECTION

In items 4-6 of the office action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Nygren. Applicant's Attorney does not believe that claims 1-9, as currently amended, are anticipated by Nygren for the following reasons:

Nygren, as shown in figure 2, and discussed in the specification (column 2, lines 19-21, and column 3, lines 1-9) provides a device which uses quick disconnect connection that attaches to the input ports of paint sprayers. Cleaning solvent is supplied under pressure through the internal channel of the paint sprayer for the purpose of removing paint residue.

Unfortunately, this only addresses one part of the cleaning process of devices such as paint sprayers. After the internal channel is cleaned with the Nygren device, it must be disassembled to clean the other components of the paint sprayer. This entails substantial time delays and inconvenience for the painter due to the multistep nature of the Nygren cleaning process.

Applicant's device provides a single step planning process which reduces the amount of time required to clean a paint sprayer. A painter using Applicant's invention disassembles the paint sprayer at the outset, and uses separate holding devices to hold the body of the paint sprayer and the detachable components of the paint sprayer. In Applicant's invention, one spray nozzle is used to clean the internal channel in the body of the paint sprayer while other components of the paint sprayer, such as the trigger, air cap, fluid nozzle, etc., are mounted in separate holding devices and cleaned by separate sprayers. This allows all components of the paint sprayer to be simultaneously cleaned which reduces total cleaning time over what is possible with Nygren which only cleans half of the device, namely the internal channel.

Nygren's device has a limited number of elements which are designed specifically to hold an assembled a sprayer which is connected to a supplies hose and is cleaned internally by pumping cleaning fluid through the sprayer under pressure. Applicant's invention includes many additional structural elements which are designed to secure and hold the disassembled components of a paint sprayer. The structural elements include multiple nozzles which are aligned with multiple holding devices that provide a place to secure individual components of the sprayer during the cleaning operation. As a result, Applicant's invention allows the body of the paint sprayer to be cleaned by one set of cleaning nozzles, while the detachable components which are removed from the body of the paint sprayer are spread out over one or more holding devices and are cleaned by one or more cleaning nozzles. This allows all components of the paint sprayer to be simultaneously cleaned in a single step operation. Nygren is incapable of performing this single step operation because it does not teach or suggest dissembling the paint sprayer such that the body portion and its attached component parts can be simultaneously and independently cleaned. Further, Nygren is only interested in cleaning the internal channel of the sprayer, and is silent on cleaning the individual components which are also contaminated with paint residue.

To more specifically define Applicant's invention over Nygren, independent claims 1-nine have been amended to add structural limitations which do not appear in Nygren. In particular, the claims have been amended to more specifically describe the plurality of nozzles, each of which has

a separate purpose, and the different holding devices which are designed to hold removable components of the sprayer body, the brackets used to support multiple nozzle heads, etc. Applicant's Attorney believes that these additional claimed structural elements, which do not appear in Nygren, overcome the anticipation rejection. Applicant's Attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider claims 1-9 in light of this amendment, and with a view toward allowance.

THE NEW CLAIMS 16-26

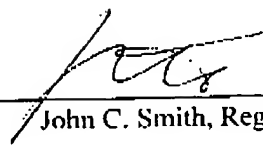
New claims 16-26 have been added. These claims further limit invention by adding elements not found in Nygren, such as the brackets with multiple nozzle heads, a holding devices designed for specific components, etc. In particular, the multiple holding devices allow individual components to be secured and preselected matter, and the brackets allow multiple cleaning nozzles to be aligned with holding devices such that each component part of a sprayer can be independently and simultaneously cleaned. These elements do not appear in Nygren. Applicant's Attorney believes that these new claims further distinguish Applicant's invention over Nygren. The elements in these claims are found throughout the specification and contain no new matter. To ensure that the Examiner has the opportunity to properly search the elements in these new claims, Applicant's Attorney is filing the Request for Continued Examination.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's Attorney thanks the Examiner for the Examiner's help in prosecuting this invention. In response to the office action, Applicant's Attorney has amended claims 1-9; canceled claims 10-15, and added new claims 22-26. Applicant's Attorney has been careful to avoid the introduction of new matter. Applicant's Attorney believes that all items in the office action dated September 17, 2004 have been addressed, and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the pending claims, as amended, with a view towards allowance, as well as the newly added claims. Applicant's Attorney further invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's Attorney

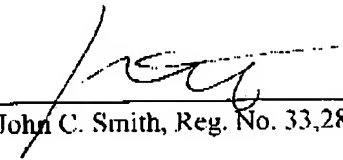
for a telephonic interview at the below listed number if the Examiner believes that prosecution of the application can be furthered by so doing.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

on: January 18, 2005
Date of Deposit


John C. Smith, Reg. No. 33,284

January 18, 2005
Signature Date